

IN FOCUS

EURAXESS Member Netherlands

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 41 countries. Here, we will zoom in on the Netherlands.



The Netherlands, often referred to as Holland, was created by the Dutch in the delta where three large rivers flow into the North Sea. Due to its strategic location, the country is known already for centuries for its international traders and the world's first multinational corporation, which originates from the 17th century. Presently ranked 5th on both Global Innovation Index and Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016, the Netherlands offers a truly innovative and creative environment.

The Dutch research environment stands amongst the best in the world. All 14 Dutch universities are ranked in the top 200 of Times Higher Education Rankings. A [study commissioned by the European Commission](#), in relation to the Europe 2020 strategy, places the Dutch research system among the very best in terms of openness, excellence and attractiveness.



Netherlands' Research, Development & Innovation System



Floating Pavilion in Rotterdam. Source: Claire Droppert, Rotterdam Image Bank

The Dutch government follows a top sector approach where nine sectors have been identified as priority areas including Agri-Food, Horticulture, High-Tech, Energy, Logistics, Creative industries, Life Sciences & Health, Chemicals, and Water. The Government, private sector and academia together form a 'Golden Triangle' also known as 'Triple Helix' model, in which interactions among each other are highly encouraged. In the Netherlands, the private sector is a major contributor to overall R&D expenditure and there exist strong linkages between academia and industry.

Public Sector research institutions in the Netherlands consist of 14 universities, 18 KNAW Institutes¹, 6 Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO) Institutes, 5 Large Technological Institutes (GTIs)², 14 TNO³ Institutes, and a number of other state owned research and advisory centres. All Dutch universities are ranked in the top 200 of Times Higher Education Rankings. Together, these universities and institutes form the backbone of the research and innovation landscape in the country.

In 2014, Dutch institutions published 72,000 publications, ranking 5th in the world. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications, top 10%), Clinical Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Basic Life Sciences and Physics & Material Science were top research areas. The total number of European patents with Dutch origin in 2015 stood at a total of 1998.

Research Excellence in The Netherlands

The Netherlands is very successful in securing European research funding both from the [Marie Skłodowska Marie Funding program \(video\)](#) and [ERC funding \(video\)](#). In order to promote research excellence, NWO offers two types of funding – 'Innovation Research Incentive Scheme' for talented, creative researchers who engage in innovative research, which provides three types of grant ([Veni](#), [Vidi](#), [Vici](#)) geared to different stages in a researcher's career and 'Spinoza prize' which is offered yearly to 3 or 4 excellent researchers, who stand out with groundbreaking research conducted in the Netherlands.

¹ So called because KNAW acts as the umbrella organization for these institutes

² Conducting applied research in aerospace, water management, hydraulic engineering, maritime research and energy research

³ TNO stands for Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research which is an independent organization focusing on applied science



Recruitment Opportunities

Public Sector Recruitment Opportunities:

The Netherlands offers various recruitment opportunities for international candidates. All university research positions that are open to international researchers, are listed on the job portal www.euraxess.eu and www.academictransfer.org. One can also visit [FOM Research vacancy](#) page, which lists vacancies available at FOM research institutes. Individual institutes also list such opportunities on their websites, further details can be found [here](#).

PhD position

The Netherlands is a very attractive destination to pursue PhD degree where it is not regarded as study but as serious research and PhD candidates are often paid. A PhD from Dutch university is highly regarded because of high academic standards. The Netherlands has an excellent international ranking for number of publications per researcher (2nd) and for the impact of research publication (4th). Almost all PhD positions are linked to a university, but PhD-candidates may find place at other institutes or even in industry.

More information can be found here: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/education-system/degrees/phd>.

Private Sector Recruitment Opportunities

Many Dutch companies, both large MNCs as well as SMEs, such as Philips, ASML, Xelvin, Cosine and OctoPlus among others are continuously looking for Bachelors, Masters and PhDs with specialist knowledge. To give an example, Cosine, which is high-energy optics specialist, recruits PhDs in physics from time to time. To apply, candidates should hold a PhD degree in physics related to high-energy optics with 3 years of experience in development and testing of high-energy optics during or after his/her PhD. For more information regarding this position, please contact [Dipl.-Ing. Max Collon](#).

For scholarship programmes, refer to the following website:
www.grantfinder.nl

A large part of R&D in the Netherlands is carried out by **private companies** and they often recruit researchers at varied levels. Many of these companies are located in organised hubs such as 'Brainport' in Eindhoven is well known as Europe's leading High-tech region, and 'Health Valley' which is a network of 700 health related organisations working on innovation in healthcare space.



Philips Ambient Experience Catheterization Lab. Source: Philips



Funding Opportunities

There are various **funding agencies** in the Netherlands – The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), Dutch Technology Foundation (STW), The Netherlands Organization for Health Research & Development (ZonMW) and The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which offer various grants and fellowships for individual researchers.

NWO provides [71 grants](#) for researchers, from PhD candidate level onward. [Veni](#) is a very attractive grant for international researchers, which allows those who have recently obtained their PhD to conduct independent research and develop their ideas for a period of three years. KNAW has 15 funding [instruments](#) amongst which are the NIAS Individual Fellowships. These fellowships are provided to senior scholars with at least three years of post-PhD degree academic experience, who have already made a considerable contribution to their field. The aim is to carry out advanced research in humanities and social sciences through individual projects, lasting one or two semesters at the institute.

Important information for incoming researchers

The Netherlands belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when coming to the Netherlands (in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). EP-Nuffic is the national coordinator of the Dutch network. Additional information can be found at www.euraxess.nl.

FactCards

Academic Transfer has set up a great tool to accommodate international researchers coming to the Netherlands. Visit: [Fact Cards](#)



The Netherlands has a very **flexible immigration procedures** system for researchers and highly educated persons. Your host institution will take care of your residence permit application; it will be dealt with swiftly and includes a free work permit for your research activities. Your possible spouse will also be taken on in this procedure and will receive a residence permit which allows him/her free access to the labour market (no work permit required).

If you want to come to the Netherlands but have not found a job yet, you may be able to use an [orientation year](#). This allows access to the Netherlands and the Dutch labour market for a year to people who received a Master or PhD at a university in the top 200 of the rankings



Contact information in the Netherlands:

www.euraxess.nl
www.grantfinder.nl
www.hollandalumni.nl
www.hollandtrade.com
www.nuffic.nl
www.studyfinder.nl
www.studyinholland.nl

